

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell joined Rahway Mayor James Kennedy and others at Rahway's Grover Cleveland Elementary School on Thursday, April 28, to commemorate Arbor Day with the planting of trees that are resistant to the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).

Secretary Kuperus spoke about the importance of cooperation among public and private partners in the fight against the beetle, giving special mention to Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) for their help with trees around power lines, Covanta Union, the company running the Rahway incinerator, for their help in burning wood chips from trees cut down due to ALB infestation and the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association for donating trees to be replanted. Also Don Base and Joan Karackiewicz, the two Carteret residents who alerted NJDA officials to areas where the beetle had been seen, were recognized during the event.

As of April 27, 4,019 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union quarantine area. Of those, 507 were infested host trees and 3,512 were high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees in areas of Carteret, Rahway and Linden.

Currently, 14 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Eighteen USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, along with 13 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine; to date a total of 14,815 trees have been inspected. Tree treatments in the Middlesex/Union area are slated to start May 16 with approximately 20,200 trees to be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid. The insecticide will be injected into the tree's trunk or into the soil surrounding the tree.

On April 25, NJ-12 News, New Jersey's Cable News Network, did an update story with Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB New Jersey Program Director, on the tree removal process being conducted the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine. On April 25, the NJ DEP Forest Service in cooperation with Mayor Daniel J. Reiman of Carteret, held a public meeting concerning the ALB reforestation plan for Carteret. Representatives from NJ DEP explained all the parts of the reforestation process. Approximately 50 residents attended the meeting, which was covered by the Star Ledger, who ran a story in their April 26 edition.

On April 28, the Star Ledger ran a feature story on the ALB Program's reforestation efforts being conducted in Carteret. The story covered the planting of 56 new non-host trees on Pinho Road in Carteret.

#### Jersey City/Hoboken ALB Infestation

Tree treatments in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area were completed on April 28; a total of 893 trees were treated.